100

Chapman

#12

Observations

upon

The common inflammatory

Dysentery

of

Our Climate

1819

Wm. P. Fontaine

admitted april 22 1819

To .

This un
-cunt of its
tribute, and
overflowing
proud to ach
as a man I
your life may
the wish,

To N. Chapman M.D. &c, &c, &c.

This imperfect essay, is inscribed, not on account of its intrinsic merit, but as an humble tribute, and attestation of that respect, which the overflowing heart of a grateful private pupil, is proud to acknowledge he cherishes for him, both as a man & a teacher of medicine. And that your life may be long, illustrious, & happy, is the wish, of

Your most sincere friend,
And grateful pupil.

Observation

This disease is
to the the 5th
so inflammatory
nous Diseases
nal fever hence
to this
most objection
which has been
Gallery Gastro
it is only con
from. What
there as are
circumstances
most writers
with cold sh
the local
frequently
hot & fe
be considered
part of a fatal

Observations upon the common inflammatory Dysentery

This disease is arranged by Cullen in his 1st Class (Pyrexiæ) & Order the 5th (Profluvia) & Genus 41st. The Genus is an inflammatory contagious fever, attended with frequent mucous bloody discharges, tenesmus &c the natural feces being for the most part retained.

To this opinion of the pathology of Dysentery some have objected on account of the general contagious nature which has been ascribed to it. The writers who consider Cullen's Pathology of Dysentery erroneous, suppose that it is only contagious when accompanied with typhus fever. & that among all the other forms it prevails either as an epidemic or a disease produced by accidental circumstances. The symptoms of the disease as described by most writers are as follows, commencing most frequently with cold shiverings & the other symptoms of fever next the local affections appear as tenesmus & frequent stools. It frequently happens that these last make their appearance first & perhaps as frequently the disease is ushered in by costiveness, an immoderate degree of flatulence want of appetite nausea & vomiting, after these the symp=

toms

=Loss of flesh

Diarrhœa is

as the prejou

frequent. I

Malaria in

day that is d

occurred

Tertiana. I

during, is un

was intermixe

the discharge

These

from the int

generally it

pass off

usually a

suffered

Fever and

Loss of thirst

to be the ca

is generally

It has been ob

-tony of pain above described supervene. Sometimes a slight Diarrhœa is the first appearance. As the disease advances the symptoms become more severe the evacuations more frequent & uniformly attended by Tenesmus & Tormina & flatulence also is not unfrequently an attendant. Perhaps this is sometimes preceded by violent straining. Such an occurrence is generally succeeded by an aggravation of Tormina & Tenesmus. The matter discharged from the intestines, is sometimes frothy mucus, sometimes blood & mucus intermixed, with a cheese like substance, & sometimes the discharge is pure blood.

These are the usual appearances of the evacuations from the intestines during an attack of Dysentery. Occasionally it happens that small indurated pieces of fæces pass off, they are called Scybala & their discharge is usually attended with temporary relief to the sufferer.

Fever more or less marked with the usual symptoms of thirst & heat &c. is to be observed. Not distinguished by the same degree of fulness & activity of the pulse as is generally to be met with in inflammatory diseases. It has been observed by most writers on this subject that

that this lim

ness. But

ical period

the disease

the most fav

Added

most remitte

the abdomen

small fibrile

similar to the

remarkable

followed by

The disea

ch is attend

times more

natural. Bl

diarrhoea

There

veral writers

discharge pen

bowels is suff

the bowels

about this time the disease seems to be disposed to come to a crisis. But it is not unfrequently the case that this critical period is much more protracted. If at this period the disease it has not been checked in its progress it for the most part takes on a more dangerous form

Added to the increase of tormina & tenesmus are great reduction of strength, cold extremities, tension of the abdomen, cold clammy sweats, hiccough, delirium, & small febrile pulse, & an acrid discharge from the bowels similar to the washings of meat. These are generally unfavorable symptoms. & altho' sometimes they are not followed by death; yet they are always the precursors

The disease when it is about to terminate favorably, is attended with a remission of fever, the surface becomes moist & relaxed. The evacuations are more natural & less frequent, attended with very little Tormina & Tenesmus

There is another form of this disease spoken of by several writers upon this subject, in which there is no discharge from the bowels whatever. This condition of the bowels is supposed to be produced by the inflammation of the bowels rising to so great a height as to transcend

Inaugural Lecture

The Causes of
authors upon th
have enumerat
1st Marsh
to produce ou
in the state of
3rd Acute
4th A preca
5th Epidemics
6th Shallow
It has been
ists with Co
has to some ext
gestion of the
fully clearly a
by, on every the
dities to the
the disease is prov
but times the
continued This
Chatakey of

abdomen [illegible] as an auxiliary to [illegible].

The warm bath is a remedy of considerable importance in this disease, but in consequence of the inconvenience which attends its administration, it is almost entirely thrown aside from the practice of this country.

In the case of children this objection does not apply. In such cases it may be used with very good effect when [illegible]. Of late however a [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] the most [illegible] is the [illegible]. It is in [illegible] use. It acts by suppressing the abdominal muscles, by [illegible] urgent [illegible]. & Blistering is another remedy used with great benefit in this disease. In breaking [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of the bowels, tension of the abdomen & [illegible] [illegible] skin & administered in this stage after previously [illegible] along the intestines [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] venesection, [illegible] are attended with the most salutary effects. They tend to relax the surface & to abate the violence of intestinal inflammation and irritation. Some difference of opinion seems to exist relative to the period at which they ought to be applied. Some contending that they ought

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] X [illegible]

[illegible] XV, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

duce salivation. I have no experience. Some practitioners recommend it very highly, whilst others speak in doubtful terms of it. However high the commendations that have been bestowed upon it, I should not be disposed to resort to it often.

That it would prove effectual I have no doubt. But as long as we have it in our power, to cure the disease by, means that are less violent in their operation I should never resort to it. As a dernier resort it may be had recourse to, but under no other circumstances in this form of Dysentery.

Diet. As this is a disease of high inflammatory action, it becomes a matter of primary importance to attend to the diet of the patient. A very low diet should be enjoined, consisting of articles possessed of as little irritative action as possible. Such as Slippery Elm Tea, Barley or Rice water, Flax seed Tea, Tapioca, Sago &c. The use of these drinks throughout the whole course of the disease, will be attended with no inconsiderable benefit. They promote perspiration, given in a tepid state, & answer also as nourishment,

92

Dysentery

John W Collmont
Delaware
113 Mark Street

admitted March 30th 1820
vide Minutes of Faculty